



NEWSLETTER

SOUTH DAKOTA DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS
SOUTH DAKOTA DEPARTMENT OF THE MILITARY



SD BRIDGE DEDICATED TO 1LT HERBERT LYMAN AND T/SGT JAMES LYMAN

The South Dakota Department of Veterans Affairs hosted a State Bridge Dedication Ceremony Saturday to honor Air Force Combat Veteran 1LT Herbert Lyman and Army Combat Veteran Tech Sergeant James Lyman.

The South Dakota HWY 73 Bridge near Thunder Hawk was dedicated to the Lyman brothers who both served in World War II.

Herbert, a P-51 mustang pilot, was shot down over France on a dive-bombing mission. His plane sustained damage from enemy anti-aircraft fire and left formation. He was reported killed in action June 17, 1944.

James was killed by an enemy grenade and gunshot wounds from enemy small arms fire in Italy while leading a charge on machine gun positions March 16, 1945.



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114TH FIGHTER WING AIRMEN HONORED DURING WELCOME HOME CEREMONY

A welcome home ceremony for more than 400 airmen who deployed from the 114th Fighter Wing was held at Joe Foss Field, Sept. 11.

Throughout the past year, several airmen deployed overseas as part of a Reserve Component Period (RCP) where they supported a multitude of different operations. During this RCP, South Dakota airmen deployed to 19 different countries where they supported ongoing U.S. military operations around the globe.

Some unit members were deployed to Al Udeid Air Base, Qatar, for a period of approximately 180 days, while other unit members were attached to joint operations in areas throughout central and west Asia, Europe, Africa and the Pacific.

In addition to the RCP tasking, the 114th Fighter Wing was tasked with providing homeland defense in the United States through a National Special Security Events (NSSE) deployment.

Regardless of the length or method of deployment, Air National Guard members normally deploy in small groups or individually, and at different times throughout the year. The nature of the deployment cycle makes it difficult to hold formal send off and homecoming ceremonies. For this reason, it was significant to be able to recognize the contributions of these service members at the ceremony which fell on the 20th anniversary of the terrorist attacks on Sept. 11, 2001.

Several South Dakota dignitaries were in attendance to welcome the unit members home on this fateful day.

"For two decades since, many of you in this room have answered the call with great resolve and great resilience," said U.S. Sen. John Thune. "For two decades, Americans have been safe because the American military stepped up and did what it always does – protect Americans to keep this country safe."

Thune was joined on stage by other notable guests including Gov. Kristi Noem; U.S. Rep. Dustin Johnson; Sioux Falls Mayor Paul TenHaken; and South Dakota National Guard leadership: Maj. Gen. Jeffrey Marlette, adjutant general; Command Sgt. Maj. Patrick Couser, senior enlisted leader; Col. Mark Morrell, 114th commander; and Chief Master Sgt. Troy Erlandson, 114th command chief.

For many service members and the family that accompanied them in the audience, the ceremony was a reminder of the sacrifices our country has made since that day and continues to make daily.

"I'm incredibly grateful for all that you do," said Noem. "Not just by the brilliance of how you serve, but you serve with honor and distinction, and it means the world to me and my family."

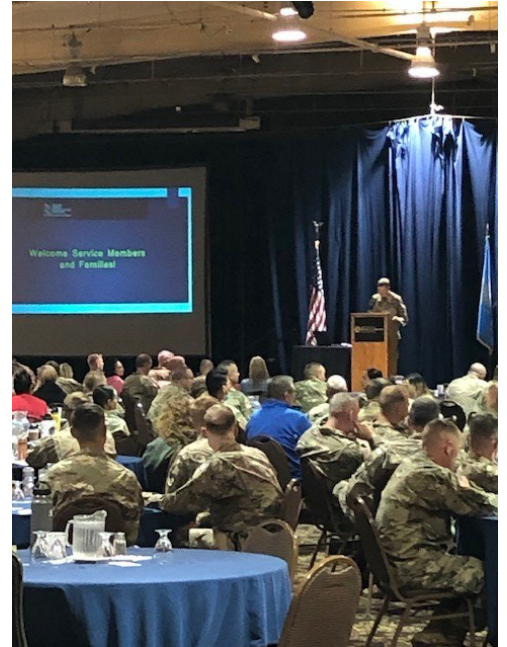


SDDVA PARTICIPATES IN YELLOW RIBBON AND FAMILY DAY



The South Dakota Department of Veterans Affairs participated in the Yellow Ribbon that was held last weekend for members of the SDARNG 196th MEB returning from service in Djibouti, Africa.

Service members and their family members attended the two-day event which included a number of speakers giving presentations on benefits and wellness. SDDVA Field Service Officer Brett Dickerson briefed attendees on the services and benefits available to them.



In addition, SDDVA attended the 114th Fighter Wing Family Day. Numerous vendors were on hand to provide soldiers and their families with information on programs available to them. SDDVA's Heather Bullerman and Brian Voges hosted booths for the Department and the South Dakota Veterans Cemetery. Both fielded a lot of questions on the new presumptive respiratory disabilities from burn pit exposure.



GOVERNOR NOEM JOINED SDDVA AT 9/11 MEMORIAL AT STATE VETERANS CEMETERY

Governor Kristi Noem and First Gentleman Bryon Noem joined the South Dakota Department of Veterans Affairs for a wreath laying ceremony Saturday at the South Dakota Veterans Cemetery.

Saturday was a milestone for the families, friends, and colleagues of the nearly 3,000 loved ones lost September 11, 2001. It was a day that forever changed us, our nation, and the world.

The anniversary served as both a valuable history lesson and an opportunity to honor the dignity, courage, and strength of the men and women directly affected by the tragedy. For two decades we have vowed to “never forget.”

Despite our shared grief in the aftermath of 9/11, hope, resilience, and unity lifted us up as a nation. Twenty years later, these

lessons are more important than ever. The compassion we showed to one another, the resolve we demonstrated to the world, and how, in the face of unfathomable loss, we rose as one.

We must ensure that new generations understand the capacity within each of us to stand shoulder to shoulder, as we fulfill our collective promise to never forget.



DSS OFFERS TRAINING TO HELP REDUCE SUICIDE, MENTAL HEALTH ISSUES

The South Dakota Department of Social Services (DSS) offers a variety of training opportunities, including virtual courses, designed to help identify, understand, and respond to signs of crisis.

“Knowing what to do and where to turn in a crisis is one of the most effective ways to prevent suicides in our communities,” said DSS Secretary Laurie Gill. “The South Dakota Department of Social Services offers a number of learning opportunities aimed at addressing mental health and suicide issues.”

Organizations and groups can request specific trainings in their communities either in person or some may be available virtually. DSS can also help cover costs associated with trainings if needed.

Available trainings include:

- Mental Health First Aid
- Youth Mental Health First Aid
- National Alliance on Mental Illness’ Ending the Silence
- Applied Suicide Intervention Skills Training
- Question, Persuade, Refer
- Question, Persuade, Refer, Treat
- Question, Persuade, Refer, Triage
- Counseling on Access to Lethal Means
- Means Restriction
- Safety Planning

“Preparing to help people in mental health crises or those considering suicide is critically important to creating stronger, more resilient families and communities,” Gill said. “We want to equip South Dakotans with tools and resources to save the lives of their family, friends, neighbors, and community members.”

To learn more, request a training, or view a calendar of upcoming trainings, visit sdsuicideprevention.org/about-suicide/trainings/.

If you need help with thoughts of suicide, please call 1.800.273.8255 or send a text to 741741. Help is available 24/7.

Visit SDSuicidePrevention.org and BeThe1SD.com to find resources and learn more on suicide prevention.



VA VETSMILE PILOT PROGRAM TO IMPROVE AFFORDABLE DENTAL CARE ACCESS FOR VETERANS

The United States Department of Veterans Affairs launched a new initiative with community dental care providers to help improve dental care access for veterans enrolled in VA health care who are currently ineligible for VA dental services.

[VETSmile: Connecting Veterans with Dentists in their Communities](#) started early July to help eligible veterans access free or discounted dental services at pilot sites in New York City and New Jersey through dental care providers at New York University College of Dentistry, Zuffall Health Center and Rutgers School of Dental Medicine.

VETSmile is a Community Provider Collaborations for veterans pilot program authorized under [Section 152 of the VA MISSION Act of 2018](#). It is the pilot program with a waiver request submitted to Congress under this authority.

“VETSmile is an opportunity for us to bridge the gap in veterans’ access to continuous, accessible and affordable oral care, which is crucial for their overall wellbeing,” said Center for Care and Payment Innovation Acting Executive Director Roshni Ghosh, M.D. “The VHA’s Center for Care and Payment Innovation plans to rapidly accelerate efforts to broaden VETSmile dental care partnerships in additional states after implementation at initial sites.”

For eligible veterans who do not have regular dentists, partnering dental care sites will provide dental care and services. Depending on the community provider, the services offered to eligible veterans will include:

- Acute emergency dental care.
- Preventive oral care.
- Treatment of oral disease.
- Dental restoration, endodontics and periodontics.

Additionally, dental care partners provide veterans with oral health education to encourage adoption of routine oral hygiene practices.

VETSmile expects to serve 3,900 veterans through 9,000 veteran patient visits in the first year. The numbers are expected to increase as the pilot reaches other geographic locations.

The program will carry on for the next five years and will be assessed for scaling or an extension. Sustained partnerships with the American Dental Association, the National Association of Community Health Centers, and VA Dentistry support the development and success of this pilot.



SGT COLTON LEVI DERR FOUNDATION

“GALLANTLY FORWARD GALA”

The Sergeant Colton Levi Derr Foundation (SCLDF) announces their 8th annual ‘Gallantly Forward Gala’ in support of veterans. The event will be held on Saturday, October 16, 2021 at The Monument—LaCroix Hall, Rapid City, SD. Doors open at 5:00 p.m. and event ceremonies kick-off at 5:45 p.m. Tickets are \$35 and must be purchased in advance. Business evening attire is recommended, but not required.

The gala event will feature a social hour, music, dinner, guest speakers and a silent/live auction. If unable to attend the event, the SCLDF asks that you consider either sponsoring a veteran in your stead or donating an item for the silent/live auction. All donations are tax-deductible and greatly appreciated.

Founded in 2012, the SCLDF is steadfast in its three-fold mission of support: provide advocacy, assistance, and public awareness for the struggles veterans face when they return from deployments. Present day soldiers often face more than one deployment throughout their military careers. While on these deployments, soldiers have an overall mission. They feel united and develop a sense of duty and camaraderie. However, coming home does not always mean peace, but often reveals confusion, turmoil, anger, depression, and isolation. An estimated 20+ veterans and 1 active duty soldier succumb to suicide every day.

In support of American’s War on Terror during Operation Iraqi Freedom and Operation Enduring Freedom, Sergeant Derr completed over 500 combat missions. Sergeant Derr battled Post Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD) following his combat tours in Iraq and Afghanistan. Colton succumbed to suicide on 28 APR 2012 following his Afghanistan mission. The SCLDF honors Colton by assisting his fellow veterans and their families and respectfully asks the community to become involved in this battle.

For more information about the Gallantly Forward Gala, contact Jerry W. Derr at: (605) 545-2505 or email him at: jerry@sergeantderrfoundation.org or visit www.sergeantderrfoundation.org.



**GALLANTLY FORWARD
2021 GALA**

SGT Derr battled Post Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD) following his combat tours in Iraq and Afghanistan. We honor Colton by helping his fellow veterans.

THE BATTLE DOES NOT END WHEN THE WAR IS OVER

**SATURDAY
16 OCTOBER
THE MONUMENT
LACROIX HALL**

**DOORS • 5PM
TICKETS \$35**

BUY FOR VETERANS IF YOU CAN'T ATTEND!

SOCIAL ★ DINNER ★ MUSIC ★ SILENT & LIVE AUCTION

#PTSD #LISTEN #BATTLEBUDDY

**GET YOUR TICKET TO SUPPORT OUR HEROES ★ CALL OR GO ONLINE 605.545.2505
SERGEANTDERRFOUNDATION.ORG**

518 6TH ST. • STE 2 • RAPID CITY, SD • 57701

Women Veterans Alliance Event

AN EVENT TO RECOGNIZE, HONOR AND ENGAGE WOMEN WHO HAVE SERVED EITHER AS A GUARD, ACTIVE, OR RESERVE MEMBER OR ARE A SPOUSE TO A GUARD, ACTIVE OR RESERVE MILITARY MEMBER.



Virtual Keynote Address - 12:30p.m.

Carey Lohrenz - The First Female F-14 Tomcat Fighter Pilot in the U.S. Navy

Carey Lohrenz, knows what it takes to win in one of the highest pressure, extreme environments imaginable: In the cockpit at Mach 2. As the first female F-14 Tomcat Fighter Pilot in the U.S. Navy, having flown missions worldwide as a combat-mission-ready United States Navy pilot, Lohrenz is used to working in fast moving, dynamic environments, where inconsistent execution can generate catastrophic results. In her motivating and engaging keynote presentations, Carey shares her fascinating experiences operating in one of the world's most challenging environments - an aircraft carrier.

Veteran Leadership Panel - 10:30a.m.

Event Schedule

Saturday, October 16th

9:00-10:00am - Networking & Vendor Booths

10:30-12:00pm - Veteran Leadership Panel

12:00pm-12:30pm - Break & Vendors

12:30-2:00pm - Carey Lohrenz Virtual Keynote

Speech & Lunch

2:00pm - Networking & Vendor Booths

2:00-3:00pm - Shooting Range Activity*

*available for an additional fee

**First 500 registrants receive a signed copy of Carey Lohrenz's book!



Colonel Ruth A. Christopherson (ret)



Danielle Konechne
Prior Air National
Guard Security
Forces



Amanda Kippley
Judge Advocate
General officer
(previously USAF
and USAF
Reserve)



**Moderated by:
Matt Holsen**
Prior Sgt. United
States Marine Corps
Reserve

OCTOBER 16, 2021 | 9 AM - 2 PM
SOUTH DAKOTA MILITARY HERITAGE ALLIANCE
1600 W RUSSELL ST, SIOUX FALLS, SD 57104
REGISTRATION FEE: \$35

[HTTPS://BIT.LY/SDWOMENVETERANSEVENT21](https://bit.ly/sdwomenveteransevent21)

QUESTIONS: SDWOMENVETERANSALLIANCE@GMAIL.COM

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UPCOMING EVENTS

Sep 18—Midwest Honor Flight—Mission 7

Sep 18—Midwest Honor Flight Welcome Home Ceremony—Sioux Falls Convention Center Arena—9:15 pm (CT)
Doors Open at 7:30 pm (CT)

Sep 22-23—DAV and Auxiliary 14th District Fall Conference—DAV Headquarters—1519 W. 51st Street—Sioux Falls

Sep 24—Veterans Stand Down—SD Military Heritage Alliance (1600 W. Russell Street)—Sioux Falls—9:00 am—noon (CT)

Sep 30—Folds of Honor Legacy Golf Tournament—Red Rock Golf Course—Rapid City



UPCOMING EVENTS (CONTINUED)

Oct 8—Fallen Hero Bridge Dedication—CPT Elmer Rusch—Brookings—11:00 am (CT)
Oct 9—Midwest Honor Flight—Mission 8
Oct 9—Midwest Honor Flight Welcome Home Ceremony—Sioux Falls Convention Center Arena—8:45 pm (CT)
Doors Open at 7:00 pm (CT)
Oct 9—BHSU Hero Appreciation Game—Lyle Hare Stadium—Spearfish—1:00 pm (MT)
Oct 11—State Offices Closed
Oct 11—Fallen Hero Bridge Dedication—SGT William Christensen—American Legion Post 194 (221 W. Main Street)—Parkston—1:00 pm (CT)
Oct 16—Women Veterans Alliance Event—SD Military Heritage Alliance (1600 W. Russell Street)—Sioux Falls—9:00 am—2:00 pm (CT)
Oct 16—Gallantly Forward 2021 Gala—The Monument—Lacroix Hall—Rapid City—5:00 pm (MT)
Oct 20—South Dakota Veterans Council Meeting—SD Military Heritage Alliance Building (1600 W. Russell)—Sioux Falls—9:00 am (CT)
Oct 23—Midwest Honor Flight Hangar Dance at the South Dakota Military Heritage Alliance (1600 W. Russell Street)—Sioux Falls
Nov 11—State Offices Closed
Nov 11—Fallen Hero Bridge Dedication—SSG Gregory Wagner—Hanson High School (600 Juniper Street)—Alexandria—1:00 pm (CT)
Nov 13—Northern Hills Veterans Appreciation Fair—Sturgis Community Center (1401 Lazelle Street)—12:00—3:00 pm (MT)
Nov 25-26—State Offices Closed
Dec 7—Governor's Budget Address
Dec 18—Wreaths Across America—South Dakota Veterans Cemetery—Sioux Falls—11:00 am (CT)
Dec 24—State Offices Closed
Dec 31—State Offices Closed

2022

Jan 10—POW/MIA Chair of Honor Dedication—State Capitol—2:00 pm (CT)
Jan 11—Governor's State of the State Address
Jun 12—Midwest Honor Flight Annual Honor Ride
Jul 18-23—National Veterans Golden Age Games—Sioux Falls

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